IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph **[0006]** as follows:

**[0006]** Solutions for medical fluid container monitoring range from complicated electronic, motor-driven, ~~peristalic~~ peristaltic pump-type systems, which exactly regulate the fluid flowing from the container to predict when it will run out, to relatively low-cost sensors which produce an audible alarm when the fluid has reached a particular level within its container. U.S. Patent 3,641,543 to Rigby (Feb. 8, 1972) describes a probe-type fluid level sensor wherein two probes are placed within the fluid container to monitor the fluid level based upon the capacitance of the bottle/probes system. However, a common concern associated with probe-type fluid level sensors and other sensors which must be placed on the inside of the container involves the risk of introducing contamination into the fluid. For a hospital environment, particularly where fluids generally come in presterilized containers, introducing a probe into the fluid to determine its level is a great risk, and providing presterilized sensors already within the containers increases healthcare costs and requires hospitals to use common equipment for monitoring the sensors.

Please amend paragraph **[0011]** as follows:

**[0011]** Venous blood containers, which are made of a rigid or flexible resin, are employed in heart-lung bypass circuits used during open ~~heat~~ heart surgery. It is critical to monitor the fluid (blood) level in such containers in a manner which provides an accurate and timely signal as to when blood in the container has been reduced below a certain level. While capacitance-type level sensors have been employed in an attempt to measure such blood levels, the viscous nature of blood leaves a film on the interior walls of the container, giving a false level indication. This phenomenon may be exacerbated during the latter stages of emptying a flexible bag when the inner walls of the bag tend to sag together, trapping the blood film therebetween. It is, therefore, desirable to have an external fluid level sensor which overcomes the problems associated with accurately sensing the levels of viscous fluids in both rigid and flexible containers.

Please amend paragraph **[0015]** as follows:

**[0015]** The size of the sensor in terms of plate length and vertical as well as any horizontal separation of the plates may be optimized for the system frequency and container wall material and thickness, as well as the nature of the fluid, the level of which is to be monitored. The plates of the sensor are arranged with a vertical separation to allow detection of a rapid decrease of fluid level where a residual layer or film of fluid is left on the container walls. Horizontal separation of the plates may be adjusted depending upon the resistance attributable to the fluid film on the interior of the container wall. The sensor is most preferably configured so that the capacitor plates are arranged with a vertical separation so that an upper plate is completely exposed and the film is allowed to dissipate while the fluid is still lowering over a second, lower plate. The plates may also be horizontally separated by at least a small distance, or at least not overlap horizontally, to maximize the film resistance between the sensors. The ~~above-described~~ above-described sensor and control circuit configuration allows the level detection of blood and other conductive fluids that leave a conductive film on the container wall.